



Idaho Division of
Vocational Rehabilitation

2009 - 2013

Content and Format

Since Federal and Idaho State governments operate according to different fiscal years, and since IDVR is accountable to Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) on a federal year basis (October 1 – September 30), the agency will use federal year statistics for reporting purposes in this Strategic Plan. This Plan will cover federal fiscal years 2009 through 2013.

The Plan is divided into three sections. The first section focuses on the Vocational Rehabilitation Program and presents specific goals, objectives and strategies for achieving these goals. The following two sections relate to IDVR programs; State Renal Disease and Epilepsy Services.

Vocational Rehabilitation Program Vision Statement

“Your success at work means our work is a success.”

Vocational Rehabilitation Program Mission Statement

“Preparing individuals with disabilities for employment and community enrichment.”

Vocational Rehabilitation Program Goals

Goal #1 – Continually improve the quality of Vocational Rehabilitation services available to eligible Idahoans with disabilities to prepare for, obtain, maintain, or regain competitive employment and long term Supported Employment within the context of available resources

1. **Objective:** Increase the number of individuals who successfully become employed after receiving VR services.

Performance Measure: The number of individuals who successfully achieve the employment outcome objective.

Benchmark: The number of individuals exiting the VR program who achieved an employment outcome shall be equal to or exceed the previous year's performance.

2. **Objective:** Increase the earnings of individuals who successfully become employed after receiving VR services.

Performance Measure: The earning capacity of those who become employed.

Benchmark: The average hourly earnings of individuals exiting the VR program who achieved an employment outcome shall be equal to or exceed the previous year's performance.

3. **Objective:** Increase the number of individuals with significant disabilities placed in employment with long term job support.

Performance Measure: The number of individuals in employment who receive long term support.

Benchmark: The number of individuals with significant disabilities placed into employment with long term job support shall be equal to or exceed the previous year's performance.

4. **Objective:** Utilize Information Technology to its maximum capacity.

A. Performance Measure: Increase the efficiency and capacity of record storage.

Benchmark: Initiate a pilot project on document imaging in one region by 2010.

B. Performance Measure: Information Technology/Skill Development of all personnel.

Benchmark: Ongoing education and training will increase.

5. **Objective:** Statewide consistency for orientation and training to ensure continuity among all levels of staff.

Performance Measure: A comprehensive Training Manual for VR Counselors, VR Assistants, Regional Managers, and Assistant Regional Managers.

Benchmark: One module of the Training Manual will be completed per year over the next four years.

6. **Objective:** Expand Employment Opportunities for Clients

A. **Performance Measure:** Increase participation in the National Employer Network.

Benchmark: Participation shall be equal to or exceed previous year's participation.

B. **Performance Measure:** Implementation and use of the job development pilot project.

Benchmark: Job development pilot project will be implemented and in use by 2009.

7. **Objective:** Enhance revenue opportunities for VR programs.

Performance Measure: Increase grant opportunities and collaboration with other agencies to develop shared projects.

Benchmark: Grant opportunities and collaboration with other agencies will meet or exceed the previous year.

Goal #2 - Ensure that all eligible individuals with disabilities have equal access to services.
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1. **Objective:** Assure that individuals of minority backgrounds have equal access to services

Performance Measure: Maintain or increase the number of individuals from minority backgrounds who successfully become employed after receiving Vocational Rehabilitation services.

Benchmark: The number of individuals with disabilities from minority backgrounds exiting the VR program who achieved an employment outcome shall be equal to or exceed the previous year's performance.

2. **Objective:** Adequately meet the employment needs of the increasing Adult Corrections population statewide.

Performance Measure: Maintain or increase the number of individuals from the Adult Corrections population statewide who successfully become employed after receiving Vocational Rehabilitation services.

Benchmark: The number of individuals with disabilities from the Adult Corrections population exiting the VR program who achieved an employment outcome shall be equal to or exceed the previous year's performance.

3. **Objective:** Strengthen partnerships with community partners

Performance Measure: Participation in the meetings and activities of community programs including but not limited to the Consortium for Idahoans with Disabilities (CID), Workforce Investment Act (WIA), State Independent Living Council (SILC), Developmental Disabilities Council, Advisory Commission on Correctional Education and Programs, Interagency Working Group, and Secondary Transition Group to support their efforts.

Benchmark: Increase regular attendance

State Renal Disease Program

Mission

To provide financial assistance for lifesaving medical care and treatment to Idaho residents who are experiencing end-stage renal disease; and who do not have the financial resources to meet all their end-stage renal disease medical needs; and for whom work is not an option; or are employed, but unable to afford lifesaving kidney related expenses on a continuing basis.

Vision

No Idaho resident experiencing end-stage renal disease should be at risk of death solely due to the inability to financially secure timely and appropriate medical intervention.

Goal #1 – Provide Idahoans experiencing end-stage renal disease with a program for financial assistance for needs relating to life saving medical services.

1. **Objective:** Achieve an overall satisfactory rating for the State Renal Disease Program.

Performance Measure: The percentage of Idaho residents served in the program.

Benchmark: Achieve a minimum of 90% overall satisfaction rating.

Services to People with Epilepsy

Mission and Purpose

The Epilepsy Foundation of Idaho (EFI) is committed to educating people with epilepsy and their families to assist with the problems associated with the disorder. In so doing, persons with epilepsy achieve a better and higher quality of life and the people of Idaho are served through economic savings and increased revenue. EFI works to achieve these goals through unduplicated, comprehensive programs of information and education, advocacy, prevention and the delivery of needed services. EFI serves people affected by the disorder, regardless of age or other criteria. Service response is provided according to individual needs and delivered in an integrated fashion, i.e. individual or family consultation/counseling (either face-to-face or telephone according to transportation limitations), groups, peer support, etc. and by utilizing all resources and appropriate materials, either written or visual. Needed and appropriate referrals are routinely utilized as part of services.

Role of IDVR

This is a flow-through appropriation with no direct programmatic implication for IDVR. A Strategic Plan is submitted to IDVR by EFI and is included with IDVR's Strategic Plan when submitted to the Division of Financial Management. The following is a summary of EFI's Strategic Plan. Please refer to the plan itself for greater detail.

Goal #1 – Serve Idaho families, children and youth affected by epilepsy.

Objectives:

- Provide epilepsy consultation and outreach services to enable individuals and/or families to understand the disorder and be active members of their treatment team.
- Provide all epilepsy services to diverse cultural groups appropriately.
- Advocate for individual rights. Provide epilepsy education to employers and community agencies including law enforcement departments and service providers with information of legal rights
- Ensure pharmaceutical compliance in financial emergencies preventing unnecessary emergency room visits.
- Facilitate the social and psychological support that other people with similar experiences can provide.

- Encourage schools to develop understanding and acceptance of children with epilepsy. Seizure recognition and first aid training is provided.

Performance Measure/Benchmark: Serve 2,500 per State Fiscal Year.

Services to People with Epilepsy - continued

Goal #2 – Provide health education/training to public groups and to schools.

Objectives:

- Educate people about the causes of epilepsy to prevent seizure disorders.
- Teach the public about safety and first aid as it pertains to seizures to reduce seizure-related injuries and avoid unnecessary ambulance calls and hospital visits.
- Foster and encourage public understanding and acceptance of people with seizure disorders.

Performance Measure/Benchmark: Provide outreach to 250 individuals per State Fiscal Year.

External Factors Impacting IDVR



The field of Vocational Rehabilitation is dynamic due to the nature and demographics of the clientele served and the variety of disabilities addressed. Challenges facing the Division include:

Technological Advances in Both Assistive Rehabilitation Products and Information Technology

IDVR is dedicated to keeping current of the latest trends in both assistive rehabilitation technology and information technology, and in training Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors and staff. IDVR employs an Information Technology staff to develop innovative ways to utilize technology in carrying out its mission. IDVR also collaborates with the Idaho Assistive Technology Center located at the University of Idaho.

Changes in the Medical Industry

Continuing advancements in the medical industry as well as changes relating to insurance and financial benefits pose complex questions for the Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor. This is especially true in determining eligibility and services. Many IDVR Counselors and Managers are involved with health and disability-related organizations to keep abreast of these changes.

Idaho's Economy

Idaho has seen tremendous growth in its population in the past ten years. This could impact the availability of services to Idahoans. Idaho has also seen a dramatic change in its job market; away from agricultural toward more service, hi-tech and professionally oriented jobs. The environment has always been competitive for IDVR clients. The growth in population has increased the competition for jobs. IDVR recognizes this and strives to develop relationships within both the private and public sectors in an effort to increase employment opportunities for its clients.

Political Climate

The political elements are by far the most difficult for IDVR to overcome since they are essentially out of the control of the Division. At the state level, the Division is subject to legislative action regarding annual budget requests including service dollars and

personnel expansion. Any legislation pertaining to service provision either by public or private sectors will have a definite impact on Division services and service providers.

IDVR is also affected by decisions made at the federal level. The direction Congress chooses regarding reauthorization of the Rehabilitation Act will impact the future of Vocational Rehabilitation in Idaho. Federal funding decisions, e.g., training grants, block grants, funding reductions, program deletions, changes in health care and employment standards and practices are areas that would impact the Division's planning process.

All staff of the Idaho Division of Vocational Rehabilitation take pride in providing the most effective, efficient services available to individuals with disabilities seeking employment. Management is committed to continued service to the people of Idaho. The goals and objectives outlined in the IDVR Strategic Plan are designed to maximize the provision of services to Idahoans with disabilities as well as promote program accountability.